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ITU Workshop on "Evolution of Optical Networks for AI"

29 June 2026
Montreal, Canada

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is organizing a workshop on **the "Evolution of Optical Networks for AI" taking place on 29 June 2026 in Montreal, Canada,** and it will be hosted by **ISED Canada.** This workshop will be held in conjunction with the **ITU-T Study Group 15** meeting, and remote participation will be provided.

Reimagining Optical Networks for the Age of AI: Optical networks are undergoing a profound transformation, evolving from high capacity transport systems into intelligent, programmable platforms that enable the AI era. Grounded in the ION 2030 framework, this session presents a forward-looking vision of optical infrastructure as a living system that can sense, adapt, and optimize itself at terabit scale.

This workshop will explore how breakthroughs in photonic technologies, coherent transmission, embedded intelligence, and AI driven control are converging to deliver ultra low latency, extreme scalability, and sustainable operation. It will highlight the strategic role of global standardization, notably in ITU-T SG15, in ensuring that next generation optical technologies form a unified, interoperable foundation for 6G RAN, distributed AI, data center interconnect, and future digital services, positioning optical networks as the bedrock of intelligent connectivity toward 2030 and beyond

Target Audience

Participation is free of charge and is open to ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academic Institutions and to any individual from a country that is a member of ITU who wish to contribute to the work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional and national organizations.

See detailed steps to register here

Register here

Remote Participation: Connect to the MyWorkspace platform using the same ITU user account with which you registered for the meeting. You can launch the remote session by clicking the JOIN button from 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

Draft Programme

10:30 - 11:00	**Registration**
11:00 - 11:10	**Opening Remarks** **Seizo Oneo**, Director, TSB, ITU **Glenn Parsons**, Chair, ITU-T SG15
11:10 - 12:10	**Session 1: Optical AI** **Jean-Michel Sellier**, Ericsson **Sebastien Gareau**, Ciena **Hiroshi Yamamato**, NTT **Xiang Liu**, Huawei
12:10 - 12:30	**Session 2: AI Events** **Bilel Jamoussi**, ITU [**Presentation**] **Matthew Posner**, Axonal **Jessy Rouyer**, Nokia

RELATED INFORMATION

Organized by: International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Hosted by: ISED Canada

Date: 29 June, 2026

Venue: Le Centre Sheraton Montreal Hotel, 1201 René-Lévesque Blvd W, Montreal, Quebec H3B 2L7, Canada

DOCUMENTATION AND REGISTRATION

Invitation letter

Voluntary contributions / **MyWorkspace**

RELATED TOPICS, STUDY GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS

ITU Study Group 15

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